Appl. No: Unassigned Applicant: Heikki Niiranen

Preliminary Amendment dated August 9, 2006

Preliminary Amendment to International Appl. No: PCT/F12005/000088

Page 3 of 5

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

Claim 1. (original): A procedure in dry formation of a fibre layer, in which procedure fibrecontaining air is passed through a forming wire (7) moving via a former (2) or an equivalent distributor unit and further through a suction box (8) or equivalent via channels (11) with an adjustable flow rate, where the suction box or equivalent being placed below the forming wire, and which air is circulated back to the upper part of the same or another former via channels (17) with an adjustable flow rate, characterized in that the channel-specific adjustment of the circulation airflow is made during operation by decreasing or increasing the cross-sectional area of the mouths of the channels (17) placed above the forming wire.

Claim 2. (original): A procedure according to claim 1, characterized in that the channel-specific adjustment of the circulation airflow is made at both sides of the forming wire (7) during operation by decreasing or increasing the cross-sectional area of the mouths of the channels (17) placed above the forming wire (7), and by decreasing or increasing the cross-sectional area of the mouths of the channels (11) placed in the suction box (8).

Claim 3. (original): An apparatus (1) in dry formation of a fibre layer, said apparatus comprising at least one former (2) or an equivalent distributor unit, a forming wire (7) moving below the former and at least one with adjustable channels (11) equipped suction box (8) below the forming surface of the forming wire (7) and a system of circulation air channels leading from the suction box (8) to the upper side of the same or some other former or an equivalent distributor unit, the circulation air channels having channel system (9) equipped with regulating element (18) and divided into substantially separate channels (17), characterized in that the number of Appl. No: Unassigned Applicant: Heikki Niiranen

Preliminary Amendment dated August 9, 2006

Preliminary Amendment to International Appl. No: PCT/FI2005/000088

Page 4 of 5

channels (11) in the suction box (8) is substantially the same as the number of channels (17) in the channel system (9).

Claim 4. (original): An apparatus according to claim 3, characterized in that the cross-sectional area of channels (11) and their width in the transverse direction of the forming wire (7) at the upper surface of the suction box (8) has been fitted to correspond to the corresponding dimensions of channels (17) at the upper edge of the drum part of the former (2).

Claim 5. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 3 or 4, characterized in that the regulating element (18) of the channels (17) of the channel system (9) has been fitted to be adjusted during operation of the apparatus.

Claim 6. (currently amended): An apparatus according to claim 3, 4 or 5, characterized in that the channels (11) in the suction box (8) has been fitted to lead in a converging manner into an exhaust duct (12) provided at the side of the suction box (8) and leading to a fan (13).

Claim 7. (currently amended): An apparatus according to <u>claim 3</u> any one of the preceding elaims 3-6, characterized in that the cross-sectional areas of channels (17) at the junction between the upper part of the former and the channels (17) are mutually substantially equal, and that the total width of channels (17) covers substantially the entire transverse width of the forming wire (7) at the junction of the upper part of the former.